



Property developers never give up!

By John Dearing

As reported in *THE ARCHER*, March 2006, the former Finchley Manor Garden Centre in East End Road has been offered for sale as a commercial property. A planning application for change of use was refused on various grounds, including the site's location on Metropolitan Open Land, but a second application has been made, to build shops and offices. This is still under consideration, although it is hard to see why the previous reasons for refusal would no longer apply.

In 2005, developers made a planning application to build a block of over 100 flats and retail premises on the former factory site at 60 Lancaster Gardens. This was refused on numerous grounds including excessive size, obtrusiveness, and detriment to local amenities. The developers appealed against this decision and made a subsequent application that differs little from the first yet has been successful.

The dripping tap technique

Since 2000, no fewer than five applications have been made to demolish the existing shops on Lincoln Parade, and develop the site. Following extensive local objections, four of these have been refused or withdrawn, but the latest proposes four, two-storey terraced houses. Not surprisingly, there have been many objections to this application, as well.

The owners of the Viceroy Close car park have made at least six applications to build a block of flats on the site. Each time there have been many

objections and the application refused or withdrawn. No doubt there will be another one in due course.

The former car workshop behind The Bald Faced Stag is now being redeveloped (no prizes for guessing what it is to be). This took several years and many applications, before the dripping tap technique succeeded. No doubt *ARCHER* readers can think of other such examples.

The moral is that property developers will not take "no" for an answer. They will come back time and again with planning applications, generally little changed from the previous one.

If you are adversely affected by such applications, be prepared to keep on objecting, raising petitions and lobbying local councillors, because the moment you relax, the developers will get their way, and your quality of life will be diminished. Lastly, remember that the planning officers, if treated with respect and courtesy, can be your greatest allies.



Penny Desaxe with the wheelie bin she has to keep chained up. Picture by John Lawrence.

Wheelie shocking

Do you know how much your wheelie bin is worth? Probably not much when it's full of rubbish but if it goes missing you'll have to dig deep to the tune of £46.

Penny Desaxe was shocked to find this out when her wheelie bin was stolen from outside her house in Long Lane.

Penny, a mother of two who claims income support, woke up one morning to find she had nowhere to put her waste

so contacted Barnet Council to request a replacement bin.

They told her she would have to pay £46 for a new one and, if she couldn't pay immediately, she could pay £2 a week until it was paid for. In the meantime, she'd have to put

out black bin bags.

"I couldn't believe what they were telling me," said Penny. "It was a real liberty to charge so much for a new bin. I've lived here for 16 years and never needed to ask for a new bin before.

I thought the bin was the council's property anyway and I'd expected them to take responsibility for providing a replacement. This should be a warning to everyone else."

In this case, there was a happy ending. Penny's bin, which she had decorated with special flower stickers, was found the next day 300m away in Manor Cottages Approach.

Penny said: "I was so grateful to the kids who found it that I paid them a tenner. The bin's back outside my house now and needless to say I've got it chained up."

202 is number one again!

For the second year running a hairdresser from an independent salon in the High Road has successfully gone head to head in competition with others from internationally known companies.

East Finchley hairdresser Shareefa Jennings has beaten young stylists from across the country to make it through to the UK final of the world's most prestigious annual international hairdressing competition, Wella Trend Vision Award 06.

Shareefa, 22, from the 202 hair salon, amazed the judges with her creative interpretation of the 'Real Daydream' trend at the southern regional heat which took place in Gatwick on 17 May.

Nine hundred stylists, each aged 30 or under, aimed to take home the coveted Wella Trend Vision Award 06 UK title. Shareefa will now join 19 other talented young hairdressers at the UK Final which will take place at London's ExCel on 14 October.

Nigel Meredith, Technical Manager, Wella UK said: "Shareefa should feel extremely proud to make it through to the UK Final of the Wella Trend Vision Award 06. The standard of entrants has improved year on year and the judges found it more difficult than ever to select the 20 finalists. We were overwhelmed by the talent: every single finalist demonstrated outstanding skills

and creativity, and their sheer passion for hairdressing really shone through. We very much look forward to seeing more from Shareefa at the UK final later this year."



Double take

By Diana Cormack

When Clarice Bell read her March edition of *THE ARCHER*, she paid particular attention to the article entitled 'Tops Score'. This was about Asghar Shaikh, who has been running his dry cleaning business on Fortis Green for over 20 years, and it mentioned his many long-term customers, of whom Clarice is one.

Having used *Tops Dry Cleaners* for many years, retired nursing sister Clarice decided to show her appreciation of the "wonderful service" she has received there. She put a copy of the photograph that accompanied the article into a silver frame embossed with the message "Congratulations and many thanks for your 15 years of superb service".

Clarice was full of praise for Asghar and told *THE ARCHER* that one of the reasons she feels his service to be so special is because he does it with such human kindness. As for Asghar, his comment on the presentation was: "I'm shocked! But it is nice to have such lovely customers."

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